

NSW Shellfish Committee

Wednesday 16 February 2022

Summary of meeting outcomes

Change of Date for NSW Oyster Industry Conference

Due to scheduling conflicts with the host venue the NSW oyster industry conference has been re-scheduled for the 18-20 May 2022 at Batemans Bay Soldiers Club on the NSW South Coast. More information can be found on the NSW Oyster Industry website

<https://www.nswoysters.com.au/2022conference.html>

Carbon Neutral Industry

A carbon neutral shellfish industry could potentially help with market access, improve social licence and improve business profitability. DPI raised this issue at Shellfish Committee in line with the development of a new agency strategic plan. Oysters Australia have sought advice regarding the potential opportunities for the shellfish industry seeking carbon neutrality. A carbon neutral shellfish industry will be raised at the upcoming NSW Oyster Conference.

QX in Port Stephens

QX disease has been re-detected in Sydney Rock Oysters in Port Stephens following a first time detection in August 2021. NSW DPI are intending to conduct surveillance and sampling throughout the Port Stephens estuary during the QX infectious window. Movement restrictions have been placed on all Port Stephens stock and infrastructure.

DPI Aquaculture Lease Allocation Policy

In consultation with Shellfish Committee the policy was updated to remove direct negotiation provisions for marine leases or boundary adjustments for POAA.

Referral of development applications

DPI is seeking an amendment to legislation to remove the need to refer development applications that may impact the oyster industry to the department. DPI will develop educational material for industry and update the Healthy Estuaries for Healthy Oysters Guidelines to facilitate this change.

Approved Sampler Requirements

The NSW Shellfish Program approved sampler course has moved to an online and has been active since 2020. All previously approved samplers must ensure they have completed the online course located here <https://short-courses.utas.edu.au/courses/shellfish-sampler>. The NSW Shellfish Program will no longer be accepting samples collected by non-approved samplers.

End of Term for Committee Members

The incumbent Shellfish Committee industry members term lapses on 14 April 2022. The committee wishes to formally thank Associate Professor Shauna Murray (Chair), Mario Puglisi (wild harvest), Ian Crisp, Steve Verdich, Shane Buckley, Sally Ritchie (Oyster Industry) & Todd Graham (NSW Farmers) for their dedicated representation of the industry and wish those choosing to reapply all the best in the appointment process.

Dates for 2022 NSW Shellfish Committee Meetings

- 25 May 2022 (Previously 18 May 2022, conflicted with NSW Oyster Industry Conference)
- 10 August 2022
- 9 November 2022

Industry members with matters to raise are to be made aware that they should consult the Shellfish Committee industry representatives to raise the item on their behalf, contact details can be found here <http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/industry/shellfish/nsw-shellfish-committee>. If items are

raised after the deadlines above, they will be held over until the following meeting. If industry members wish to attend the meeting as an observer, an expression of interest can be sent to food.nswsp@dpi.nsw.gov.au